

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic messaging system for filtering electronic messages, comprising an access restriction filter configured to interrogate an electronic message for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of at least a portion of the electronic message in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message, and to respond to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of notice in the electronic message.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by interrogating a header component of the electronic message.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, further comprising a character recognizer configured to translate characters in an image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The system of claim 6, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations produced by the character recognizer to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to block transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display of a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An electronic messaging A method of filtering electronic messages, comprising

interrogating an electronic message for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of at least a portion of in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message, and

responding to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message comprises detecting an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of ~~notice in~~ the electronic message.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message comprises detecting a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by interrogating a header component of the electronic message.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a still image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 19, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a video image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises blocking transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable code for filtering electronic messages, characterized in that:
~~computer-readable code,~~ said code provides ~~providing~~ instructions for interrogating an electronic message for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of at least a portion of the electronic message ~~in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message~~ and for responding to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, ~~[[or]]~~ an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an ~~[[or]]~~ "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message for the access restriction notice comprises detecting at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, ~~an and~~ "internal use only" notice, ~~[[or]]~~ an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an ~~[[or]]~~ "attorney work product" notice ~~in the electronic message.~~

Claim 32 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium ~~system~~ of claim 29 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said code provides instructions for detecting in the electronic message at least one of a "copyright" notice, a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice ~~the access restriction filter is configured to detect a "confidential," "internal use only," "attorney-client privileged" or "attorney work product" notice in the electronic message.~~